

OUR REF: 020801
IN THE US PATENT OFFICE

EXAMINER

GROUP

SN

FILED - concurrentl herewith

BY - Sasaki et al

Sirs:

Kindly amend the claims in the application filed herewith
as follows:

Claims 11, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, change in the manner shown in
the "Marked Up Copy", and appearing in clean copy of each claim
in the attached Appendix.

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are in the application. Claims, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17
and 18 have been amended to bring them more in line with US practice.
Entry thereof is respectfully requested.

The Filing Fee due after amendment by the Preliminary
Amendment is as shown on the attached Fee Calculation Sheet.

In view of the foregoing, examination and allowance are
respectfully solicited.

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28 Jan 02

I hereby certify that the correspondence upon which
this notice is placed is being deposited with the US
Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope
addressed to the Commissioner of Patents Washington,
D.C. 20231 on the date set forth below.

MOONRAY KOJIMA, ATTORNEY

DATE:

1/28/02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Respectfully

M. KOJIMA

11 (amended once) The method of claim 7, wherein said calculating step comprises calculating the predicted bone-dry coated weight of a size after grade change according to said size's bone -dry coated weight before grade change, said size's concentration before grade change, and said size's concentration setpoint after grade change; and wherein said evaluating step comprises determining said web's moisture percentage after grade change at an after-dryer part inlet from said predicted bone-dry coated weight.

14 (amended once) The system of claim 10, wherein said moisture percentage prediction block calculates the bone-dry coated weight of said size after grade change according to equation 3 below, as well as the after-dryer part inlet moisture percentage of said size coated web after grade change according to equation 4 below:

$$CW' = CW \cdot \frac{S_I'}{S_I} \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

absolute after-dryer part inlet moisture percentage =

$$\frac{absMo + CW' \cdot \frac{100 - S_I'}{S_I}}{BD_{AT}} \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

where

CW = bone-dry coated weight before grade change;

CW' = predicted bone-dry coated weight after grade change;

S_I = size's concentration before grade change;

S_I' = size's concentration setpoint after grade change;

$absM_o$ = amount of moisture per unit area of web before size coating

(calculation by simulation); and

BD_{AT} = bone-dry coated weight at dryer outlet.

15 (amended once) The paper machine control system of claim 10, wherein the moving averages of measured values are used as the flow rate and concentration of said size.

16. (amended once) The paper machine control system of claim 7, wherein the moving averages of measured values are used as the flow rate and concentration of said size.

17 (amended once) A method of controlling a paper machine wherein a web is wound around steam drums of a steam dryer along with canvas so that said web is dried, and the steam pressure after grade change applied to each steam drum is predicted and controlled in order to change the moisture percentage of said web toward a given setpoint during grade change, comprising the steps of:

adapting thermal equilibrium equations between said steam drum and said canvas, between said steam drum and said web, and between said canvas and said web, and rewriting said thermal equilibrium equations into difference equations;

acquiring at least the steam pressure of said steam dryer, basis weight of said web, machine speed, and dryer part outlet moisture percentage of said web, by using sensors;

applying an initial after-dryer part inlet moisture percentage of said web, as well as other initial values, to said difference equations;

solving said difference equations repeatedly at a given time interval corresponding to a distance traveled by said web;

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determining the drying rate coefficient of said web and a pattern of said web's steady state moisture percentage transition along the direction in which said web moves within said dryer part, by repeating said solution step until a calculated final moisture percentage agrees with an actual measured value acquired with a sensor to within a given tolerance range;

acquiring at least the preset basis weight of said web, preset machine speed, and preset dryer part outlet moisture percentage of said web as operating process variables after grade change when making a grade change;

applying a value to said difference equation as the initial dryer part inlet moisture percentage of said web;

varying said steam pressure applied to each of said steam drums, in order to make said calculated final moisture percentage agree with said initial dryer part outlet moisture percentage to within a given tolerance range;

solving said difference equations repeatedly at a given time interval corresponding to a distance traveled by said web;

determining a pattern of said steam pressure applied to each of said steam drums along the direction in which said web moves; and

varying said steam pressure applied to each of said steam drums, so that the variation of said steam pressure agrees with said steam pressure pattern when an actual grade change is made.

18 (amended once) A system of controlling a paper machine wherein a web is wound around steam drums of a steam dryer along

with canvas so that said web is dried, and a steam pressure after grade change is applied to each steam drum is predicted and controlled in order to change the moisture percentage of said web toward a given setpoint during grade change, comprising:

storage means for adopting thermal equilibrium equations between said steam drum and said canvas, between said steam drum and said web, and between said canvas and said web, and storing said thermal equilibrium equations as difference equations;

detection means for acquiring at least the steam pressure of said steam dryer, basis weight of said web, machine speed, and dryer part outlet moisture percentage of said web;

calculation means for applying an initial after-dryer part moisture percentage of said web, as well as other initial values, to said difference equations, solving said difference equations repeatedly at a given time interval corresponding to a distance traveled by said web, and determining the drying rate coefficient of said web and a pattern of said web's steady-state moisture percentage transition along the direction in which said web moves within said dryer part, by repeating said solution step until a calculated final moisture percentage agrees with an actual measured value acquired with a sensor to within a given tolerance range;

setting means for acquiring and setting at least the preset basis weight of said web, preset machine speed, and preset dryer part inlet moisture percentage of said web as operating process variables after grade change when making a grade change;

input means for applying a value to said difference equations as the initial dyer part inlet moisture percentage of said web;

another calculation means for varying said steam pressure applied to each of said steam drums, in order to make said calculated final moisture percentage agree with said initial dryer part outlet moisture percentage to within a given tolerance range, solving said difference equations repeatedly at a given time interval corresponding to a distance traveled by said web, and determining a pattern of said steam pressure applied to each of said steam drums along the direction which said web moves; and

variation means for varying said steam pressure applied to each of said steam drums, so that the variation of said steam pressure agrees with said steam pressure pattern when an actual grade change is made.

dry coated weight of said size according to equation 1 below, as well as the absolute after-dryer part inlet moisture percentage of said size-coated web according to equation 2 below:

$$\text{size's bone-dry coated weight} = CW = A \cdot \frac{F \times S \times W}{V \times d} \quad (1)$$

web's absolute moisture percentage at after-dryer part inlet =

$$\frac{\text{absMo} + CW \cdot \frac{100 - S}{S}}{BD_{ATT}} \quad (2)$$

CW = size's bone-dry coated weight;

F = size's flow rate;

S = size's concentration (%);

W = size's specific gravity;

V = machine speed;

d = web width;

A = constant;

absMo_0 = amount of moisture per unit area of web before size coating

(calculation by simulation); and

BD_{ATT} = bone-dry coated weight at pre-dryer outlet.

The method of Claim 7, wherein said calculating step comprises

11. $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{A method for controlling a paper machine wherein raw pulp is} \\ \text{discharged onto a wire part, moisture contained in said raw pulp is} \\ \text{removed by said wire part and by other means to form a web, said web is} \\ \text{dried by a pre-dryer and a size is applied to said web, and then said} \end{array} \right]$

[web is further dried by an after-dryer so that a product is produced,]

[comprising the steps of:]

calculating the predicted bone-dry coated weight of a size after grade change according to said size's bone-dry coated weight before grade change, said size's concentration before grade change, and said size's concentration setpoint after grade change; and wherein said evaluating step comprises determining said web's moisture percentage after grade change at an after-dryer part inlet from said predicted bone-dry coated weight.

12. The paper machine control method of claim 11, wherein said predicted bone-dry coated weight of a size after grade change is evaluated according to the following equation:

predicted bone-dry coated weight of size after grade change =

$$CW' = CW \cdot \frac{S'}{S}$$

where

CW' = predicted bone-dry coated weight of size after grade change;

CW = bone-dry coated weight of size before grade change;

S = size's concentration before grade change; and

S' = size's concentration setpoint after grade change.

13. The paper machine control method of claim 12, wherein a dryer inlet moisture percentage after grade change is evaluated according to the following equation:

absolute dryer inlet moisture percentage = $\{absM_0 + CW' \cdot (100 -$

$$S_r')/S_r')/BD_{ATT}$$

where

$absM_0$ = amount of moisture per unit area of web before size coating

(calculation by simulation);

CW' = size's predicted bone-dry coated weight after grade change;

BD_{ATT} = bone-dry basis weight setpoint at dryer outlet; and

S_r' = size's concentration setpoint after grade change.

The system of claim 10,

14. \wedge [A system for controlling a paper machine, comprising:
 - [a web production block for producing a web not yet subjected to]
 - [size coating;]
 - [a pre-dryer part for drying said web produced by said web]
 - [production block;]
 - [a size coating block for coating a size onto said web;]
 - [an after-dryer part for drying said size-coated web;]
 - [a moisture percentage prediction block for predicting the moisture]
 - [percentage of said size-coated web; and]
 - [a controller, to which the output of said moisture percentage]
 - [prediction block is applied in order to control said pre-dryer and]
 - [after-dryer parts;]

wherein said moisture percentage prediction block calculates the bone-dry coated weight of said size after grade change according to equation 3 below, as well as the after-dryer part inlet moisture percentage of said size-coated web after grade change according to equation 4 below:

$$CW' = CW \cdot \frac{S_I'}{S_I} \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

absolute after-dryer part inlet moisture percentage =

$$\frac{absMo + CW' \cdot \frac{100 - S_I'}{S_I'}}{BD_{ATT}} \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

where

CW = bone-dry coated weight before grade change;

CW' = predicted bone-dry coated weight after grade change;

S_I = size's concentration before grade change;

S_I' = size's concentration setpoint after grade change;

$absM_o$ = amount of moisture per unit area of web before size coating

(calculation by simulation); and

BD_{ATT} = bone-dry coated weight at dryer outlet.

15. The paper machine control system of claim 10 [or 14.] wherein the moving averages of measured values are used as the flow rate and concentration of said size.

16. The paper machine control method of claim 7 [8, 9, 11, 12 or 13] wherein the moving averages of measured values are used as the flow rate and concentration of said size.

17. A method for controlling a paper machine wherein a web is wound around steam drums of a steam dryer along with canvas so that said web

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is dried, and the steam pressure after grade change applied to each steam drum is predicted and controlled in order to change the moisture percentage of said web toward a given setpoint during grade change, comprising the steps of:

adopting thermal equilibrium equations between said steam drum and said canvas, between said steam drum and said web, and between said canvas and said web, and rewriting said thermal equilibrium equations into difference equations;

acquiring at least the steam pressure of said steam dryer, basis weight of said web, machine speed, and dryer part outlet moisture percentage of said web, by using sensors;

applying [a value given by said equation cited in claim 9 as the] ^{an} initial after-dryer part inlet moisture percentage of said web, as well as other initial values, to said difference equations;

solving said difference equations repeatedly at a given time interval corresponding to a distance traveled by said web;

determining the drying rate coefficient of said web and a pattern of said web's steady-state moisture percentage transition along the direction in which said web moves within said dryer part, by repeating said solution step until a calculated final moisture percentage agrees with an actual measured value acquired with a sensor to within a given tolerance range;

acquiring at least the preset basis weight of said web, preset machine speed, and preset dryer part outlet moisture percentage of

said web as operating process variables after grade change when making a grade change;

applying a value [or values obtained by using said method cited in] [claim 2 or 13 or both of said methods] to said difference equations as the initial dryer part inlet moisture percentage of said web;

varying said steam pressure applied to each of said steam drums, in order to make said calculated final moisture percentage agree with said initial dryer part outlet moisture percentage to within a given tolerance range;

solving said difference equations repeatedly at a given time interval corresponding to a distance traveled by said web;

determining a pattern of said steam pressure applied to each of said steam drums along the direction in which said web moves; and

varying said steam pressure applied to each of said steam drums, so that the variation of said steam pressure agrees with said steam pressure pattern when an actual grade change is made.

18. A system for controlling a paper machine wherein a web is wound around steam drums of a steam dryer along with canvas so that said web is dried, and a steam pressure after grade change applied to each steam drum is predicted and controlled in order to change the moisture percentage of said web toward a given setpoint during grade change, comprising:

storage means for adopting thermal equilibrium equations between said steam drum and said canvas, between said steam drum and said web, and between said canvas and said web, and storing said thermal equilibrium equations as difference equations;

detection means for acquiring at least the steam pressure of said steam dryer, basis weight of said web, machine speed, and dryer part outlet moisture percentage of said web;

calculation means for applying [a value given by said equation]
[cited in claim 9 as the ^{an}initial after-dryer part inlet moisture percentage of said web, as well as other initial values, to said difference equations, solving said difference equations repeatedly at a given time interval corresponding to a distance traveled by said web, and determining the drying rate coefficient of said web and a pattern of said web's steady-state moisture percentage transition along the direction in which said web moves within said dryer part, by repeating said solution step until a calculated final moisture percentage agrees with an actual measured value acquired with a sensor to within a given tolerance range;

setting means for acquiring and setting at least the preset basis weight of said web, preset machine speed, and preset dryer part inlet moisture percentage of said web as operating process variables after grade change when making a grade change;

input means for applying a value [or values obtained by using said]
[method cited in claim 5 or 14 or both of said methods] to said

difference equations as the initial dryer part inlet moisture percentage of said web;

another calculation means for varying said steam pressure applied to each of said steam drums, in order to make said calculated final moisture percentage agree with said initial dryer part outlet moisture percentage to within a given tolerance range, solving said difference equations repeatedly at a given time interval corresponding to a distance traveled by said web, and determining a pattern of said steam pressure applied to each of said steam drums along the direction in which said web moves; and

variation means for varying said steam pressure applied to each of said steam drums, so that the variation of said steam pressure agrees with said steam pressure pattern when an actual grade change is made.